Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23228 312031Z

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

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R 311723Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2903

UNCLAS PARIS 23228

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO US BY TRANSPORT MINISTER GUENA

REF: STATE 169640

- 1. PROPOSED PROGRAM CONTAINED REFTEL CORRESPONDS TO THAT OUTLINED TO US AT TIME OF HERRINGER VISIT BY FELIX OF TRANSPORT MINISTRY EXCEPT THAT FELIX HAD MENTIONED CONTINUING WEST COAST VISIT NORTHWARD TO SEATTLE. WE PRESUME THAT TIGHTNESS OF SCHEDULE IN VIEW INABILITY GUENA STAY ON FOR TWO EXTRA DAYS AS RECOMMENDED BY DOT EXPLAINS OMISSION OF SEATTLE FROM REFTEL PROGRAM.
- 2. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT VISIT TO BOEING PLANT SEATTLE WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SEVERAL REASONS. AIR FRANCE IS ALL-BOEING CARRIER. BOEING'S EXPERIENCE WITH SST DEVELOPMENT WOULD PROVIDE COMMON GROUND FOR DISCUSSION WITH GUENA WHO IS MUCH INTERESTED IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF SST TRANSPORT (CONCORDE) AS WELL AS

LONGER TERM PROSPECTS. AND LASTLY, GREATER RELATIVE DEPENDENCE OF SEATTLE AREA (AS COMPARED LOS ANGELES) ON AEROSPACE INDUSTRY MIGHT MORE DRAMATICALLY EXPOSE GUENA TO PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. (COMMENT: IN FRANCE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE

AND NOT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT HAS JURISDICTION (TUTELLE) OVER AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, CIVIL AS WELL AS MILITARY. TRANSPORT MINISTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PARIS 23228 312031Z

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL AVIATION ARE LIMITED TO AIR

TRANSPORT POLICY, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, ETC.,
OBVIOUSLY DOES HAVE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL INPUT AT CABINET LEVEL,
HOWEVER, IN INFLUENCING GOF POLICY AFFECTING ITS AIRCRAFT
INDUSTRY.)

3. POSSIBILITIES THAT OCCUR TO US FOR SCHEDULING SEATTLE VISIT WOULD BE TO CURTAIL LOS ANGELES VISIT TO ONE DAY AND/OR ELIMINATE PUEBLO VISIT PERHAPS CITING UNFAVORABLE MID-JANUARY WEATHER CONDITIONS THERE. HOWEVER, WE DEFER TO WASHINGTON DETERMINATION OF WHETHER PROGRAM AS NOW DRAWN UP PERMITS SUCH CHANGES. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED FOREGOING WITH TRANSPORT MINISTRY, PREFERRING TO LEAVE FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DOT AND LANSALOT-BASOU.STONE

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